



## Free Special Education Resources, Consultation, Trainings **Your Arizona Parent School Connection**

### **Functional Behavioral Assessment Request**

Behavior is identified as how people act, function, and/or react in a particular situation. Children can have behaviors related to their disability that are considered inappropriate. When behaviors interfere with the child's or others ability to learn, there is a need to examine the behavior and put together a positive behavior plan designed to manage, replace, or get rid of the behavior. Children can be taught appropriate behavior skills once behaviors are analyzed and understood.

A Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) can provide valuable information to help analyze and understand behaviors. The FBA should include, but not be limited to, interviews and rating scales, direct observation and documentation of the child's behavior, and controlling different environmental events to see how behavior changes. Only a person who has been thoroughly trained on collecting and analyzing this type of information should carry out the direct observations. The direct observation should include analyzing what happens before the behavior (the antecedent), the resulting behavior, and the purpose of the behavior (i.e., acting up to avoid a difficult assignment). It is important that the individuals conducting the FBA be well trained, especially when it comes to controlling or changing the environment to test their ideas. Once the behaviors have been examined and the source identified, a positive Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) should be developed. The BIP should list the supports and services the student will need to manage, replace, and/or get rid of the behavior.

While the FBA can be an important part of discipline procedures regarding students with disabilities who have been removed from the classroom, it can also be part of the initial evaluation to help identify emotional or behavioral disabilities. It is vital that the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team address, review, and investigate behaviors which are a barrier to learning.

**Please review the Procedural Safeguard Notice (PSN) to learn more about your parental rights and responsibilities,** [www.ade.az.gov/ess/specialprojects/pinspals/documents/Section504/GR10.pdf](http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/specialprojects/pinspals/documents/Section504/GR10.pdf).

# Sample Letter

Date

Name of IEP Team Leader or Special Education Administrator

Name of School

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Dear Name,

I am writing to request the school conduct a Functional Behavioral Assessment to help determine appropriate supports and services necessary for my son/daughter, child's name, to benefit from his/her education. He/She is a student at name school.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding a date and time for the Individualized Education Program team to meet to discuss the components of the assessment and a list of who might be involved in conducting the FBA.

Thank you in advance for your prompt written response.

Sincerely,

*Your Signature*

Your Typewritten Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Phone Number

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